

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1-5. (canceled)

6. (previously presented) A method of treating or preventing *H. pylori* infection in humans or animals comprising the step of administering a molecule capable of inhibiting the growth or survival of *H. pylori* *in vivo* together with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier to a human or animal in need of such treatment, wherein the identification of said molecule comprises:

- (a) contacting a parental *Helicobacter* with said molecule in a biological sample;
- (b) testing and comparing the response to extracellular pH and the sensitivity to acidity of the parental strain to a strain deficient in Urel and/or of a Urel deficient strain complemented with a plasmid carrying *urel* in the presence or absence of said active molecule; and
- (c) selecting said molecule displaying a differential effect on the parental strain as compared to the Urel deficient strain.

7. (canceled) A method of preventing or treating *H. pylori* infection comprising the step of administering a molecule capable of inhibiting the growth or survival of *H. pylori* *in vivo* to a human or animal in need of such treatment.

8. (currently amended) The method according to ~~claim 7~~ claim 6, wherein the molecule is transported inside the *H. pylori* cell due to a high affinity for Urel.

9. (currently amended) The method according to ~~claim 7~~ claim 6, wherein the molecule inactivates Urel by inhibiting its properties in *H. pylori* resistance to acidity.

10. (currently amended) The method according to ~~claim 7~~ claim 6, wherein the molecule inactivates Urel by inhibiting its properties as a transporter.

11. (currently amended) The method according to ~~claim 7~~ claim 6, wherein the molecule inactivates Urel by inhibiting an interaction between Urel and other *H. pylori* proteins.

12. (currently amended) The method according to ~~claim 7~~ claim 6, wherein the molecule is capable of intracellular inhibition of urease in *H. pylori*.

13-24. (canceled)

25. (previously presented) The method according to claim 9, wherein the molecule inactivates Urel protein by directly binding to Urel.

26. (previously presented) The method according to claim 10, wherein the molecule specifically inhibits Urel transporter properties either in ammonia export or in urea export or import.

27. (canceled) The method according to claim 11, wherein the molecule is capable of specifically inhibiting an interaction between Urel and other *H. pylori* proteins.

28. (canceled) The method according to claim 12, wherein the molecule is capable of intracellular inhibition of *H. pylori* urease.